

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CSCE: WORKING METHODS FOR CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN FROM SHERER

1. DURING OUR CONVERSATION IN MUNICH YOU ASKED FOR MY VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A SMALL, INFORMAL WORKING GROUP TO WIND UP STAGE II OF CSCE. WE HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS CAREFULLY, AND OUR CONCLUSION, IN BRIEF, IS THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS MAY WELL DEVELOP AS STAGE II APPROACHES THE END OF ITS WORK, AND ESPECIALLY WHEN MOST OR ALL OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES HAVE COMPLETED THEIR DRAFTING. BUT - AND THIS IS IMPORTANT - CREATION OF SUCH A GROUP CANNOT BE RUSHED. IT MUST DEVELOP WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT.

2. IT IS TRUE THAT SMALL INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS IN MOVING AHEAD IN BASKET III. BUT THIS SUCCESS HAS BEEN SPORADIC AND MIXED, AND THE WORKING GROUPS ONLY DEVELOPED AT ALL BECAUSE THERE WAS A GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT IT WAS EASIER FOR THE SOVIETS TO DISCUSS SENSITIVE SUBJECTS IN A MORE PRIVATE ATMOSPHERE. THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE CASE IN OTHER AREAS OF THE CONFERENCE, WHERE THERE IS NO SPECIAL IDEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS RESISTANCE TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IN THE PRINCIPLES OR IN THE MILITARY FIELD. IN GENERAL, THERE IS A WIDESPREAD OBJECTION IN
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 04463 131009Z

PRINCIPLE AGAINST INFORMAL GROUPS IN CSCE, SINCE THEY

IMPLY THAT SOME COUNTRIES ARE LEFT OUT, AND THEREFORE ARE IN CONFLICT WITH THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AMONG ALL PARTICIPANTS, BIG AND SMALL.

3. OUR WORKING METHODS HERE HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ENDLESS FORMAL AND INFORMAL DEBATES, WITH DOZENS OF IDEAS PUT FORWARD AND REJECTED FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. IN FACT, MORE TIME HAS PROBABLY BEEN SPENT DEBATING WORKING METHOS AND PROCEDURES THAN ANY OTHER SUBJECT IN THE CONFERENCE. THE THIRTY-FIVE COUNTRIES TUG IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, AND THE THIRTEEN SUBJECT AREAS MULTIPLY THESE DIVERSE INTERESTS. ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECTS ARE INTER-RELATED AND INTERLOCKING TO SOME DEGREE, EACH SUBJECT AREA IS TO A CERTAIN EXTENT AN INDEPENDENT NEGOTIATION, WITH ITS OWN SHCEDULE, FORMAT, ESTABLISHED PRACTICES, HISTORY, PERSONALITIES, AND DIFFERING DEGREES OF GOVERNMENTAL INTEREST. METHODS VARY WIDELY FROM ONE GROUP TO THE NEXT.

4. IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT WE BELIEVE A NEW AND DIFFERENT WORKING METHOD CAN ONLY SUCCEED IF THERE IS A WIDELY FELT NEED FOR IT AND A GENERAL ACCEPTANCE THAT IT IS THE RIGHT APPROACH. THE TIME FOR AN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP TO BRING TOGETHER THE MAJOR ISSUES AND TRY TO WIND THEM UP MAY COME, BUT IT IS NOT HERE NOW, AND ANY ATTEMPT BY US TO CREATE ONE BEFORE THE TIME IS RIGHT WOULD PROVOKE A NEW AND DIFFICULT DEBATE ON PROCEDURES AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE VIEWED AS A SUPER-POWER ATTEMPT TO SQUEEZE OUT THE INTERESTS OF THE SMALLER COUNTRIES. DALE

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